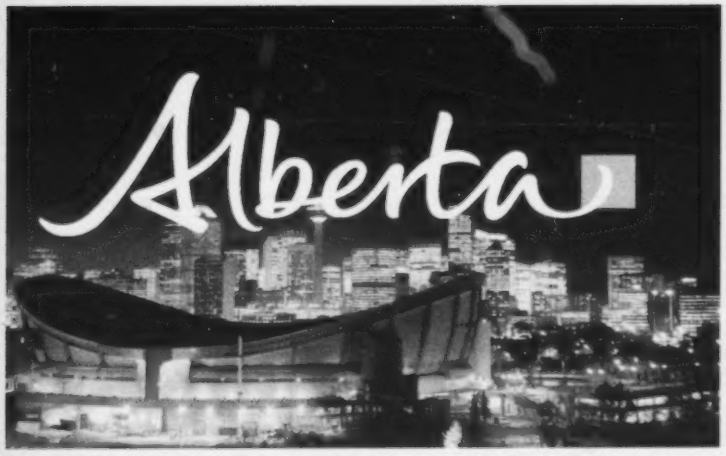
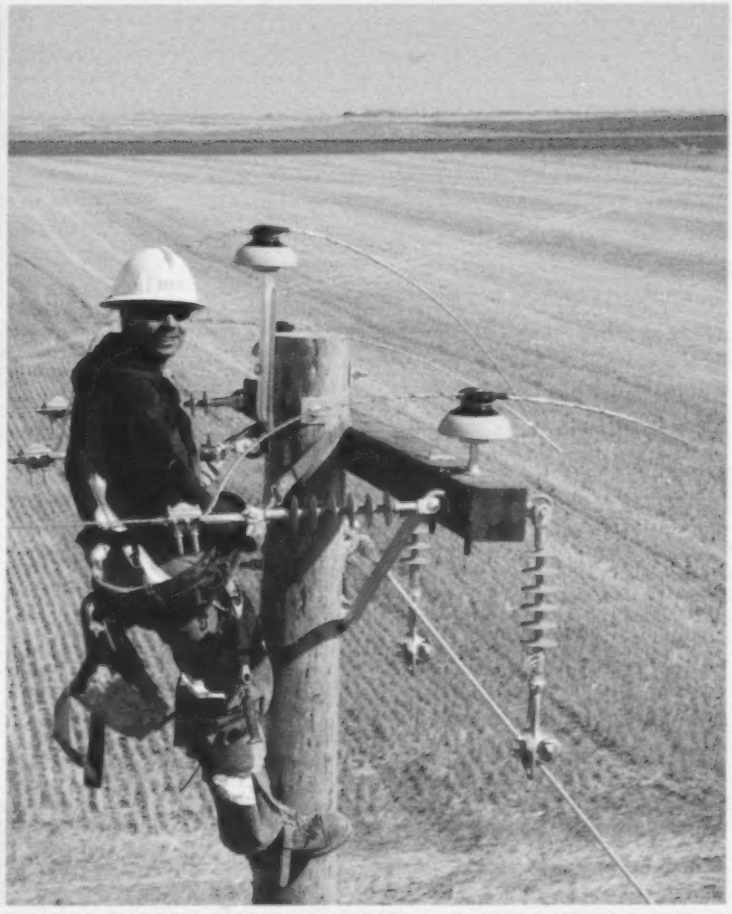




INDUSTRY PROFILES

Utilities Industry

July 2011

Government of Alberta
Employment and Immigration

Overview:

The Utilities industry[1] in Alberta includes:

- electric power generation, transmission and distribution;
- natural gas distribution; and
- water, sewer and irrigation systems.

Section A: Business Environment
1. 2010 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates
2. Industry Growth
3. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry
Section B: Human Resources Profile
1. Occupational Information
2. Demographics: Age and Gender
3. Wages
Section C: Additional Information
Links to Government and Selected Industry Associations

[1] North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) major group 22

Section A: Business Environment

1. 2010 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates:

	Alberta	Utilities Industry
Number of employed	2,016,600	18,400
Percent employed in the industry		0.9%
Number of unemployed	140,700	N/A
Unemployment rate	6.5%	N/A

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2010, Statistics Canada
Note: N/A is reported in instances of insufficient sample size.

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics[2] or Statistics Canada[3] websites.

2. Industry Growth:

- Employment in the Utilities industry is expected to grow on average 2.4% annually from 2010 to 2013.

For more information, see the *Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2009 – 2013, Industry Employment Outlook*[4] online and the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)[5] website's industry descriptions.

[2] See http://www.employment.alberta.ca/BI/67.html
[3] See http://www.statcan.gc.ca
[4] See http://www.employment.alberta.ca/documents/LMI/LMI-LMF_2009-13_cops.pdf
[5] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Utilities industry accounted for 2.0% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2010, down from 2.3% in 2000. The industry's share of Alberta's total employment increased from 0.8% in 2000 to 0.9% in 2010.

Employment in 2010 was 13.6% lower than its level in 2009. Over the last ten years, employment increased from 12,700 people in 2000 to 18,400 people in 2010.

According to *Alberta Occupational Demand Outlook 2011-2015*, employment growth in the following occupations is expected to be less than 2.7%, the average for all occupations: Stationary engineers and power station and system operators; and Managers in manufacturing and utilities.

3. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry:

Establishment Size	Alberta Businesses		Utilities Businesses	
	Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	605,200	36.2%	3,000	16.4%
20 to 99 employees	565,800	33.8%	5,000	27.3%
100 to 500 employees	309,300	18.5%	6,500	35.5%
Over 500 employees	193,200	11.5%	3,800	20.8%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2010, Statistics Canada

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupational Information:

Some examples of occupations that can be found in the Utilities industry include:

- gas utility operator;
- utility clerk;
- water and wastewater treatment plant operator;
- power lineman; and
- power system electrician.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry, as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles[6] website.

2. Demographics: Age and Gender:

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Utilities industry is as follows:

- women employed: 3,600 people, or 19.6%
- men employed: 14,800 people, or 80.4%

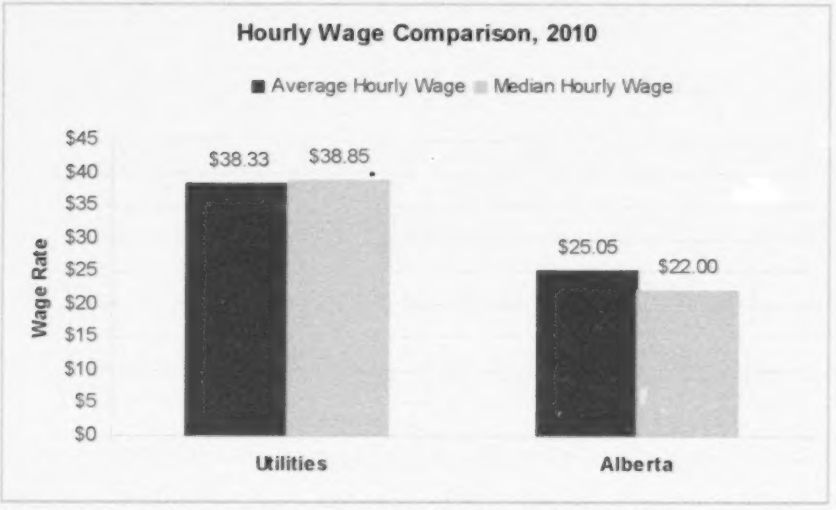
In Alberta, women accounted for 45.1% and men made up 54.9% of total employment.

Age Characteristics	Alberta Employees		Utilities Industry Employees	
	Number	%	Number	%
15-24 years	314,500	15.6%	1,600	8.7%
25-54 years	1,381,500	68.5%	14,800	80.4%
55 years and over	320,600	15.9%	2,000	10.9%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2010, Statistics Canada

[6] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo

3. Wages:



Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2010, Statistics Canada
Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting Average	Overall Average	Top Average	
Power system electrician	$ 18.25	$ 35.33	$ 43.99	$ 73,478
Utilities manager	$ 42.32	$ 48.29	$ 54.42	$ 100,606
Waterworks and gas maintenance worker	$ 28.01	$ 31.77	$ 34.69	$ 66,366

Data Source: 2009 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on wages, refer to the WAGEinfo[7] webpage. For job descriptions, duties, required skills and education for specific occupations in the Utilities industry, visit the ALIS[8] website.

[7] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo
[8] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

Section C: Additional Information

Links to Government and Selected Industry Associations:

- Alberta Energy Resources and Conservation Board
  (http://www.ercb.ca)
- Canadian Gas Association
  (http://www.cga.ca)
- Canadian Wind Energy Association
  (http://www.canwea.ca)
- Canadian Electricity Association
  (http://www.canelect.ca)